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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/852,996 | 05/10/2001 | Stephen R. Welch | 4022.026 | 5819 |

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|-------------------|--------------|
| EXAMINER | |
| HENDERSON, MARK T | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |

3722

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/852,996 | WELCH, STEPHEN R. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Mark T Henderson | 3722 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 7,8 and 16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 9-15 and 17-20 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3722

DETAILED ACTION

Faxing of Responses to Office Actions

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, TC 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)872-9302 (Official) and (703)872-9303 (for After Finals). This practice may be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into TC 3700 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Claims 1-20 in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that all the claims are in one way or another directed to a ring binder. This is not found persuasive because Claims 21-31 are directed to a method of forming a binder which does not require the limitations of a sensing means for sensing a front edge and a

Art Unit: 3722

determining means which receives the signal from the sensor means and controls a crease forming means which is disclose in Claims 1-20.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Welch (6,394,729).

Welch discloses in Fig. 8, a machine for forming a crease transversely across a binder board wherein the machine comprises: a top portion which holds a pair of downwardly moving upper nibs and a bottom portion which consist of an upwardly movable lower blade; a channel which consist of the space between the nibs and the blade; and a means (computer controls as disclosed in Col. 6, lines 53-66) for actuating the upper nibs and lower blade to form a crease across the binder board.

Art Unit: 3722

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 7 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welch (6,394,729) in view of Kistner (3,995,849).

Welch discloses in Col. 6, lines 53-67, a creasing machine comprising a creasing means consisting of nibs (64, 65), blade 66, and computer controls for forming a plurality of creases at predetermined positions.

However, Welch does not disclose a creasing machine having a entrance and exit for feeding a single binder board therethrough.

Kistner discloses in Fig. 5 and 6, a portable creasing machine comprising: an entrance (bite between rollers 12 and 14 as stated in Col. 5, lines 38-40) and an exit (bite between rollers 12 and 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Welch's creasing machine by including an entrance and exit openings as taught by Kistner for inserting and removing the binder board from the machine.

Art Unit: 3722

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-6 allowed.
5. Claims 9-15 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: No prior art of record discloses a creasing machine comprising an entrance portion; a means for sensing a front edge; a pair of motor driven rollers to engage and feed the binder board through the machine; a means for forming a crease in the binder boards; and a means for automatically determining the positions to form creases wherein the determining means receives a signal from the sensing means to indicate a front edge of a binder board being fed through the entrance portion, whereupon receiving the signal controls the motor driven rollers to move the binder and controls the crease forming means to create a crease; and including all of the other limitations of the independent claim.

Art Unit: 3722

Prior Art References

The prior art references listed in the attached PTO-892, but not used in a rejection of the claims, are cited for (their/its) structure. Gordon et al, Karolyi, Wiholm, Bell, Kistner, Gayoso, Silverberg, Vogtlander, and Sabelstrom et al discloses crease forming machines.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Henderson whose telephone number is (703)305-0189. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner supervisor, A. L. Wellington, can be reached on (703) 308-2159. The fax number for TC 3700 is (703)-872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 3700 receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.

MTH
MTH

December 11, 2002

A. L. Wellington
A. L. WELLINGTON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700